

Operation Pyramid



School Program Teacher Overview *Canadian Children's Museum*

Introduction

This program has been developed to provide your students with an interactive experience designed to enrich their understanding of ancient Egypt. Using deductive reasoning and creative thinking, your students will work to solve mysteries which have been buried in the heart of a pyramid for more than 3,500 years.

In order to become more familiar with various aspects of life in ancient Egypt — particularly food, the arts, clothing, leisure and funerary practices — your students will:

- take on the roles of specialists and learn about the specific skills involved in each of the following professions: egyptologist, archaeologist, forensic scientist, linguist and art historian;
- analyze “secret files” containing information on ancient Egypt; and
- handle artifacts which they learn to place in their historical context.

Please divide your group in two prior to your Museum visit.

Goals

Operation Pyramid program is aimed at capturing your students’ imaginations while making their study of history and culture come to life. It also addresses certain objectives of your school program by:

- helping students appreciate the major achievements and rich cultural heritage of ancient Egypt; and
- stimulating and encouraging their interest in history and ancient civilizations.

Program Content

Upon arrival, your students will be greeted by Canadian Children’s Museum animators. Students will then carry out a secret mission during which they will examine information about ancient Egypt, and explore a recently discovered pyramid that is more than 3,500 years old. They will be divided into two groups, and each student will be given a badge indicating the type of specialist they are playing. One group will begin its enquiries by analyzing artifacts in the laboratory; the other will explore the CCM pyramid. Halfway through the program, the teams will switch activities. Both teams will fill out “research reports” during the program which will help them solve the mysteries surrounding this pyramid.



Duration, Times and Reservations

- 60 minutes
- Start times: 9:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m. or 1:00 p.m.
- To make your reservation, please contact Group Services at 819 776-7014

Grade Levels

- Ontario — Grades 3 to 6
- Quebec — Cycle 2 and Cycle 3



Specific Learning Outcomes

In addition to the goals mentioned above, this program offers activities which will help your students to deepen their knowledge and understanding of certain specific topics. Through this program, your students will:

- better understand the geography, climate, history and culture of ancient Egypt;
- deepen their knowledge of ways of life in ancient Egypt;
- discover ancient Egyptian beliefs about the afterlife;
- understand the roles of research specialists such as egyptologists, archaeologists, forensic scientists and art historians;
- learn the differences between social classes in ancient Egypt; and
- understand how technical progress helps researchers to demystify the past.

Curriculum Links

In order to support Ontario and Quebec curricula, this program has been tailored to enhance your classroom content. A few specific curriculum links are outlined below.

Ontario

Grade 4

Social Studies: Heritage and Citizenship — Ancient and Medieval Civilizations

- Identifying the elements of ancient and medieval civilizations.
- Explaining in general terms how ancient and medieval civilizations have left their mark on the modern world.
- Making connections between current ways of life and those of ancient and medieval civilizations.

Quebec

Cycles 2 and 3

Social Sciences: Geography, History and Citizenship Education

- Competency 1 — Understanding the organization of a society within its territory.
- Competency 2 — Interpreting change in a society and its territory.
- Competency 3 — Awareness of the diversity of societies and their territories.

Preparing Your Class

In order to ensure that your class gets the most out of this educational experience, we encourage you to consider the following pre-visit activities:

- Explore our virtual **Mysteries of Egypt** exhibition at www.civilization.ca/civil/egypt/egypt_e.html.
- Study the professions which students will take on during the program: forensic scientist, archaeologist, egyptologist, linguist and art historian.
- Taste fruits that are found in Egypt today — and which were also consumed in ancient times — such as dates and figs.
- Introduce the themes of mummification, hieroglyphics and pyramids.

Post-Visit Activities

To help consolidate the lessons your students learn during their Museum program, you may want to consider some of these follow-up activities:

- Initiate a classroom discussion in which students talk about the theories they developed during their explorations in both the laboratory and the pyramid.
- Invite students to carry out research on an ancient Egyptian god or pharaoh.
- Have students make a *shabti* figurine with plasticine or clay.
- Ask students to write their names in hieroglyphics.

Evaluation

In order to ensure that our programs remain helpful and relevant to your curriculum and to your students, we encourage all teachers to send in a post-program evaluation. Evaluation forms will be provided onsite, and we hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to provide us with important feedback on your Museum experience.

